

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

House Bill No. 1339 by Representative Downs

MTR VEHICLE/DRIVER LIC: Provides for additional requirements and restrictions for drivers' licenses for minors

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Unless accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least age 21 or older, an intermediate licensee may not, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., transport more than one passenger that is under 21 years of age and not a member of the intermediate licensee's immediate family.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

Present law provides that no first time application for a Class "E" license shall be received from any person 17 years of age or older unless there is also submitted with the application written evidence of the successful completion by the applicant of a full 28 hour driver's education course or of an approved six hour "pre-licensing" training course.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that no first time application for a Class "E" license shall be received from any person 17 years of age or older unless there is also submitted with the application a signed statement to the department attesting that the applicant has completed a minimum of fifty hours of supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least age 21 or older. At least 15 hours must be nighttime driving.

Present law prohibits an applicant from being issued a Class "E" intermediate license unless a signed statement by the parent or legal guardian is provided to the department attesting that the applicant has a minimum of 35 hours of behind the wheel driving experience with a licensed adult driver.

Proposed law allows the Class "E" learner's license to be converted to a Class "E" intermediate license upon the applicant being at least 16 years of age and meeting the following conditions:

- (a) The applicant's parent or legal guardian must provide a signed statement to the department attesting that the applicant has completed a minimum of 50 hours, rather than 35 hours as stated in present law, of supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least age 21 or older. Proposed law requires at least 15 of these hours must be nighttime driving.
- (b) The applicant must pass an on-road driving test.
- (c) The applicant must remain accident free, except where the licensee was not at fault, and receiving no convictions for moving violations or violations of the seat belt or curfew laws of this state or any law pertaining to drug or alcohol use. Present law does not contain the "accident free" conditions.

Present law provides that in addition to a licensed parent, sibling, guardian, or adult, there may be other members of the permittee's immediate family in the vehicle and when accompanied by a driver's education teacher there may be one or more fellow driver's education students in the vehicle.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that, unless accompanied by a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least age 21 or older, an intermediate licensee may not between the

hours of 6:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. transport more than one non-immediate family member passenger that is under 21 years of age.

Present law provides that upon completing the Class "E" intermediate licensing stage, and upon demonstrating that the licensee has remained accident free, except in cases where the licensee was not at fault, has received no convictions for moving violations, and has received no convictions for violations of the seat belt or curfew laws of this for 12 consecutive months after being issued his intermediate license, an applicant may be issued full Class "E" driving privileges.

Proposed law adds requirement to present law that the driver not be convicted of any laws pertaining to drug or alcohol use for 12 consecutive months after being issued his intermediate license to be issued full Class "E" driving privileges.

Proposed law requires that the intermediate licensee shall not place the vehicle in motion until every occupant of the vehicle has been restrained by a properly fastened seat belt or other occupant restraint system unless such person is not required to be restrained pursuant to R.S. 32:295.1.

Present law provides for special provisions for unemancipated minors who apply for any type of license between the ages of 15 and 18 and suspension terms.

Proposed law repeals present law.

Effective Jan. 1, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 32:405.1, 407(A)(3), (4), and (5); Adds R.S. 32:407(A)(6); Repeals R.S. 32:407(E))